Final chapter!
NEW NEW
7
STORY
Shizuku Totono
ART
Daisuke Hagiwara

DOORS ALL LOCKED... CHECK.
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO LEAVE POCHIMARU-SAN TO WATCH THE HOUSE BY HIMSELF?
HE'S LITTLE, BUT HE IS A DRAGON. IT SHOULD BE FINE.
FOR STARTERS LET'S GO TO THE SHOPPING DISTRICT
TODAY, I'M GOING OUT WITH SHIN-SAN.
OR RATHER ...
IT'S A TRYST.
GU (CLENCH)
MY HEART IS RACING ...
AH!
WE DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING, DID WE?
KOYUKI!
PAAA (BEAM)

ARE YOU TWO GOING SOME-WHERE?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
KIDS SHOULD HURRY UP AND GET TO SCHOOL. GO. SCHOOL.
...AND THE OLD GUY.
YOU DON'T LOOK REAL HAPPY TO SEE ME. WHY IS THAT, HM?
HIKU (TWITCH)
KAAA (GIRD)
PEH (POOOF)
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE PLANNING ON DOING SOMETHING WEIRD TO KOYUKI, MISTER!
KENJI (GROWL)
SHE'S MINE!!
SHE'S NOT YOURS!!
くわっ
OF COURSE NOT!
HUH ...?
YOU'RE NOT?
SHUN (DROOP)
RRRRGH!!!

Chapter 7

NENENE

KOKUBI, A 16-YEAR-OLD WITH A HEREDITARY CURSE THAT MAKES HER LOOK LIKE A CHILD, AND IT SOMETIMES HERE A BIT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT MUCH. I CAN...
HYOI (WHISK)
I'LL CARRY IT.
THAT'S MAKING IT HARD TO WALK, ISN'T IT? HERE.
SHIIN KOKUBI'S HUSBAND, A 27-YEAR-OLD WHO HEARDA NEVER KILL THE TIME BECAUSE HE'S EASILY POSSESSED. VIRGIN
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.
!
YOU BOUGHT ME TODAY, REMEMBER?
PUCHIMARU, A BABY DRAGON THAT HATCHED FROM AN EGG THAT WAS SENT TO SHIIN AS FOOD. BECAUSE KONJU WANTED IT IT'S NOW THE HANAUSUBI FAMILY PET
HE'S KIND...
OKAY.
.....
JUST FOR TODAY, I'LL DO ANYTHING.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT, GO AHEAD AND ASK.
ZUGAN (SHOCK, DOOM)
"ANYTHING" !!?
HAAAAAH

WHAT SHOULD I DO? HE SAID "ANYTHING" ...
IT'S HARD TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.
OH.
I WONDER ...
JIII (STARE)
...IF WE COULD HOLD HANDS.
BUN
BUN (SHAKE)
BUT IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO ASK.

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, PEOPLE HOLD HANDS, DON'T THEY?
チラ CHIRA
UH...
チラ CHIRA (GLANCE)
TAKE HER HAND ...
HAND ...
SHUUN (PUNCH)
ヒュッ
OH!
HYU (WHIP)
Y... YES, THEY ARE.
DO (BADMP)
DO
DO
DO
THOSE HOLLYHOCKS ARE BLOOMING. THEY'RE PRETTY, AREN'T THEY?

THE GREEN-GRO-CER'S ...
WIFE
OH, IT'S YOU!
THE MAID FROM SHIN-SAN'S!
THE SHOPPING DISTRICT IS SO CROWDED.
ZAWA
さわ
IT'S LIVELY. THAT'S GOOD.
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ARE YOU HERE TO SHOP TOO?
NO, TODAY WE'RE—
OH, SHIN-SAN'S WITH YOU! YOU MUST BE GOING SOMEWHERE, THEN.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
...
MA'AM.
SHE'S NOT MY MAID.
SHE'S MY WIFE.
SU (PAT)

!
OH, DEAR ME!!
HUH!?
THEN, SHIN-SAN, YOU MARRIED A CUTE YOUNG THING LIKE THIS!?
I JUST ASSUMED! I'M SO SORRY
N- NOT SO LOUD...
WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT?
SHE SAID SHIN-SAN GOT MARRIED.
WARA (SWARM)
WARA
HA! (GASP)
WARA
HUH! FOR REAL?
WELL, CONGRAT-ULATIONS !!
YOU FINALLY GOT HITCHED, HUH, SHIN-SAN?
GUI (SHOVE)
HEY, ROMEO!
GUI
AND? AND? HOW'D YOU TWO MEET?
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT HER THAT YOU FELL FOR?
GUI
SHIN-SAAAN!
KAAA (BLUSH)
ARRRGH, SHUT UP!!! COME ON, KOYUKI!
BA (WHIP)
OH! YES!
PEKO (BOW)
AW! HE GOT AWAY.
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, YOU'RE TELLING ME EVERYTHING
HA HA HA HA!

JIRO
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BECOME SOME SORT OF RARE ANIMAL.
SHE'S ADORABLE
SO THAT'S THE BRIDE HM?
JIRO (STARE)
GOOD GRIEF. TOWN FOLK ARE SUCH GOSSIPS.
I HEAR SHIN-SAN GOT MARRIED
WHAT!? WHEN!? WHEN!?
WAH (WHINE)
WANT TO RELAX SOMEWHERE WITH FEWER PEOPLE?
HAH (GASP)
WELL, BEING IN TOWN ISN'T GONNA WORK.
OH-HO. THAT'S THIS, HM?
I BROUGHT A PICNIC LUNCH.
IN THAT CASE, CAN WE GO TO THE RIVER?
YES!
WANT TO HAVE LUNCH THERE, THEN?
THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA.

KARA (EMPTY)
カラ
HAAAAAH. THAT WAS GREAT. THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
OH, NO, IT WAS NOTHING IMPRESSIVE.
...SHIN-SAN.
I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO DO.
OH? WHAT'S THAT?
DON (BANG)
ドン
I WANT ...
...TO PAT YOUR HEAD!
...UH, SERIOUSLY? MY HEAD?
I'M ALWAYS GETTING PATTED. I WANT TO DO IT TO YOU ONCE IN A WHILE!
THE HEAD OF A GUY IN HIS THIRTIES!??

DID I PAT HER HEAD THAT MUCH?
WELL... AS LONG AS IT'S JUST MY HEAD, I DON'T MIND.
GASA (RUSTLE)
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME, THEN.
PON (PAT)
PON
IT WILL BE EASIER TO PAT YOU THAT WAY.
HUH?
LIE DOWN, PLEASE.
...HUH?
KAAA (BLUSH)
GAN (SHOCK)
WHY!?
GHK...
KILL ME...!

YOUR HAIR IS SO SMOOTH, SHIN-SAN.
KAAA
DAMMIT... THIS IS MORTIFYING ...
WHEN WE'RE LIKE THIS...
...I ALMOST FEEL LIKE I'M A MOTHER.
.....

HUH!?
KOYUKI, DO YOU WANT CHILDREN?
UM... WELL...
SOMEDAY.
HM. WELL...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHIN-SAN?
I DON'T HATE KIDS, SO...
I SEE. THEN...
KYA (SQUEAL)
KYA
THIS ROCK IS ROUND!
WHOA!

はっ
HA (GASP)
...WHY HAVEN'T YOU MADE A MOVE ON ME?
GABA (BOLT)
がばっ
WH-WH-WH-WHERE DID THAT COME FROM!?
IT'S BEEN DAYS AND DAYS SINCE WE MARRIED, BUT...
... NOTHING'S HAPPENED.
PIRU (BIRD)
PIRU
PIRU
I JUST ASSUMED YOU DIDN'T WANT CHILDREN, SHIN-SAN.
STEAL INTO HER BEDROOM !!?
SOWA (RESTLESS)
SOWA
SOWA
IS IT TIME YET?
EVERY NIGHT, I WAIT FOR YOU TO ST...STEAL INTO MY BEDROOM AND...

BUT IF THAT ISN'T IT, THEN WHY!?
ZU (LOOM)
GU (GULP)
NOT GOOD. SHOULD I TELL HER?
NO, IF SHE FINDS OUT ABOUT THAT, I'LL LOOK WAY TOO LAME!
KA (GLARE)
CONFESS THAT HER DAD TOLD ME NOT TO...?
I COULD SAY I'VE NEVER DONE IT AND I DON'T HAVE THE NERVE...
NO, THAT WOULD MAKE ME WANT TO DIE !!
ZUNNN (LOOM)
ズーン

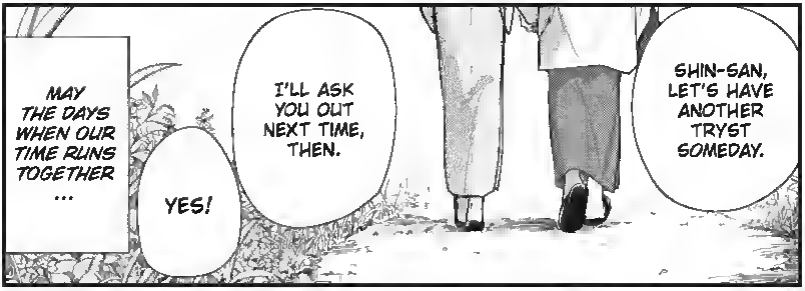
YES... HUH?
SHIN-SAN?
FU (SHADOW)
KOYUKI.
N-NOT HERE! THERE ARE... ... PEOPLE ...
HA (GASP)
HUH!?
GUI (PULL)
I CAN SEE MYSELF ... ...IN SHIN-SAN'S EYES.

CHU (KISS)
WHEN THE TIME COMES, I PROMISE I'LL MAKE A MOVE ON YOU...
SO BE PATIENT. OKAY?
KOTSUN (TUNK)

KOYU-KIIII!!?
BATABAAN (WHUMP)
SHUUUU (STEAM)
BURU (BRR)
BURU
BURU
CHIRA (GLANCE)
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY!?
KOYUKI!
...I'LL BE PATIENT.
UNTIL THAT DAY COMES...
I'LL...
...WAIT...

THE EVENING SUN IS PRETTY, ISN'T IT?
WHEN THE SUN STARTS TO SET LATER, IT REALLY DOES FEEL LIKE SUMMER.
YES, IT DOES.
SHIN-SAN.
I REALLY ...
...ENJOYED TODA...
GYUU (SQUEEZE)

TH...
BA (FWIP)
THIS DOESN'T COUNT AS MAKING A MOVE, ALL RIGHT?
A BIG HAND.
HIS CHEEKS LOOKED ...
...RED.



...CONTINUE FAR INTO THE FUTURE.

THE END

NE NE NE

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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